

this ambivalence and the intensity of hostile feeling varies much from one child to another; but there is never a child who does not show it at some period, in some situations, and in some measure. And the individual study by the psycho-analytic method of children of two years of age and onwards has demonstrated that *unconscious* hostility, and the anxiety aroused by it, are always very much more intense than ordinary observation shows—alike in the more openly aggressive and "difficult" children and in the more docile.

As will be seen from the passage I quote on p. 72, Bridges takes the view that the open expression of defiance towards an adult again represents a definite advance in the child at a certain stage. It hints at greater confidence in facing the world, and must in part be an expression of dawning self-awareness. This observational view is fully confirmed by psycho-analytic studies. It is the children whose anxiety about aggressive wishes is so great that they can tolerate no expression of it in behaviour, who suffer the severest inhibitions of the emotional and intellectual life.

One of the general impressions I have formed from my correspondence with mothers and nurses, as well as from my own observations, is that every healthily-developing child goes through a phase—it may be at any age from nine or ten months—of defiant self-assertion against the world in general and his parents in particular. In happily placed children of normal development, the cruder and more destructive forms of this defiance gradually give way to the more constructive, as social independence and bodily skills are won. In those whose development is held up, whether because of an unfavourable environment or because internal difficulties are too great, it settles down into persistent defiance and destructiveness.

One of the *more* unfavourable situations for the child in this phase is to be constantly shut up to the society of one adult only—whether mother -or nurse. There are many reasons why this is to be regarded as an unhealthy situation, but prominent among them is the fact that it gives at any rate the severely inhibited child no opportunity to find relief from his inevitable hostility towards the grown-up by outward expression. ,Since he is utterly dependent for love and safety on the one person, he dare not show his aggressive wishes to her ; and so they remain untempered by experience.